MOORE/MCKENNEY/WHITMORE ISLANDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

July 2003

Approved by:

Steve Mazur
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: July 22/03

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: July 31/03

MOORE/MCKENNEY/WHITMORE ISLANDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Purpose Statement

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Moore/McKenney/Whitmore Ecological Reserve is to protect the nesting sites of several species of seabirds in the province. The ecological reserve is closed to public access to protect the nesting seabirds and their habitat.

The ecological reserve comprises a group of low-lying islands, islets, and reefs along the east side of Hecate Strait. The largest island, South Moore, makes up most of its land area. The islands are deeply incised, and have generally rocky, sloping shorelines with few cliffs. Though exposed to the southwest, the effects of surf are probably moderated slightly due to protection given by the Queen Charlotte Islands, which lie to the west.

Fork-tailed storm-petrels nest on the smaller islets; Leach's storm-petrels use both the small islets and headlands of Moore Island. Scattered pairs of Cassin's auklets nest on the small outer islands, as well as about 30 pairs of tufted puffins and 40 pairs of glaucous-winged gulls. An unknown number of ancient murrelets are present on South Moore and the smaller islands. At least 40 000 pairs of rhinoceros auklets nest on Moore Island. This island also supports numerous pairs of pigeon guillemots, and is a probable nesting place of marbled murrelets. Other birds thought to nest on the islands but not confirmed, include the black oystercatcher, belted kingfisher, northwestern crow, chestnut-backed chickadee, winter wren, varied thrush, and Swainson's thrush.

Known Management Issues	Response
Lack of presence and knowledge.	Ensure at least one site visit every two years Attempt to recruit an ecological reserve warden.
Addition of foreshore and marine waters	The current boundaries of the ecological reserve do not include the marine component. Pursue addition of marine areas to the ecological reserve.

105-01229

CONSERVATION

Representation		
• ecosection	☒	One of 4 protected areas contributing to the representation of the terrestrial elements of the well-represented Queen Charlotte Sound Ecosection. The ecological reserve is the largest contributor to the representation of this ecosection (53.6% of overall protected areas system representation of the ecosection).
• biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☐	Minimal contribution to the CWHvh2 biogeoclimatic zone, of which 9.96% is protected in 17 protected areas.
Special Feature	☒	One of the most valuable breeding stations for nesting seabirds in British Columbia.
Rare/Endangered Values	☐	
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Long term study of seabirds and marine mammals.

RECREATION

Representation:		
• backcountry	☐	n/a
• destination	☐	n/a
• travel corridor	☐	n/a
• local recreation	☐	n/a
Special Opportunities	☐	
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation	☐	
Special Feature	☐	Nothing noted

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations	☐	
Relationship to Other PAs	☐	
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	

Partnerships ☐

Vulnerability ☐ Vulnerable to oil spills
Relationship to Other Strategies ☐

Area: 73 ha
Date of Establishment: May 3, 1971